

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for the dewatering of sludge ~~wherein the~~
sludge comprising
~~is adjusted~~ adjusting the concentration of the sludge to a pumpable concentration by
addition of water,
~~is flushed~~ flushing the sludge through a pipeline to a dewatering field,
~~is mixed~~ mixing the sludge with an aqueous solution of a polymeric flocculating agent
while ~~it~~ the sludge is being transported,
~~is sedimented~~ allowing the sludge to settle in the dewatering field to form a sediment
and partly ~~freed~~ freeing the sludge of supernatant and/or drainage water and then ~~subjected~~
subjecting the sludge to natural evaporative drying,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the flocculation is achieved with polymeric flocculating
agent is a water-soluble, anionic, polymeric flocculating agent.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that wherein~~ the anionic polymeric flocculating agent is formed from anionic ~~and wherein~~
nonionic monomers and acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, fumaric
acid, vinylsulfonic acid, acrylamidoalkanesulfonic acids, vinylphosphonic acid and/or their
salts with alkalis, ammonia, (alkyl)amines or alkanolamines or mixtures of these monomers
are used as the anionic monomers[[,]] and ~~in that wherein~~ acrylamide, methacrylamide,
acrylonitrile, hydroxyalkyl esters of acrylic and methacrylic acid, vinylpyrrolidone or
vinylacetamide or mixtures of these monomers are used as the nonionic monomers.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~and 2,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein a polyacrylamide formed from polymerized acrylamide and
acrylic acid units is used as the polymeric flocculating agent.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 3,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymeric flocculating agent contains 1 to 40 wt% of
integrally polymerized anionic monomer constituents.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 4,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymeric flocculating agents have a weight-average
molecular weight Mw of higher than 1.0×10^7 .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two different anionic flocculating agents are used.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymeric flocculating agent is added in a proportion of
0.02 wt% to 2 wt% relative to the solids content of the sludge.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 7,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymeric flocculating agent is used in the form of an
aqueous solution with a concentration of lower than 2 wt%.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the polymer solution is prepared from a powdery polymer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to-9,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sludge to be treated was obtained from rivers, harbors, the
sea floor or sandbanks.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to-10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sludge to be dewatered contains at least 50 wt% of fine
particles in the size range of 0.06 mm or smaller.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to-11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sludge to be dewatered is adjusted to a density of 1.04 to
1.15 metric tons per m³ by addition of water.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to-12,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flocculating agent is metered into the pipeline over a section
between the outlet to the dewatering field and 150 m ahead of the outlet.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to-13,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein a measuring device in the pipeline determines the sludge
concentration, calculates the quantity of flocculating agent therefrom and initiates metering of
the flocculating-agent solution.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to-14,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sludge treated with the flocculating agent has a density of
1.25 to 1.35 metric tons per m³ after dewatering and before natural evaporative drying.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 15,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the natural evaporative drying is accelerated by mechanically
turning the sludge.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 16, ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ wherein the mechanical turning is achieved by means of rotary hoes.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 17,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the evaporative drying of the sludge is continued to a density of
at least 1.45 metric tons per m³.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 18, ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ wherein the sludge has a vane shear strength of greater than 25 kN/m².

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~to 19,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dewatered and dried sludge is mixed with clays and/or
slaked lime and/or cement in proportions of 1 to 15 wt% each.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A dewatered ~~Dewatered~~ sludge prepared according
to ~~one of claims 1 to 20~~ the method as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the dewatered sludge according to claim~~
~~1 to 21 as~~ A building material comprising the dewatered sludge prepared according to the
method as claimed in Claim 1.